



October 23, 2006

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74, Support for AT&T BellSouth Merger

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to urge your approval of the BellSouth / AT&T merger. In my role as Executive Director of the Orangeburg County Development Commission, I come face to face with issues that hinder economic growth in this rural area of South Carolina. I believe that having affordable and universal broadband Internet access is vital to the economic health of rural areas. This merger could potentially be the catalyst for a dynamic economic and job growth.

For these reasons, I ask you to approve the AT&T / BellSouth merger without further delay.

Sincerely I am,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'C. Gregory Robinson'.

C. Gregory Robinson
Executive Director

CGR/tb

